## Afraid of Her Gifted Son.

Blind Tom's Mother Is Said to Have Feared the Musical Prodigy.

was made, says the Washington, aliasion was made, says the Washington Post, to the announcement of the death of Charity Wiggins, the mother of Blind Tom, the well known musical prodigy, attention being called to the statement that the old negress had died at the advanced age of 102 years.

'Yes,' replied the southerner, "Aunt Charity must have been at least 169 years old, it not more. It remember seeing her upon my last visit to Georgia. She had a little cottage nor of her own on Ross. Hill. one of the many pretty suburbs which environ the city of Columbus. As we drove up to the cottage sine was seated on the front porch, dressed in black bombazine, relieved with a snowy kerchief crossed over her capactous bosons, and protected with a broad expanse of white apron, and about her nead was twisted a bright coiored bandanta.

"She represented a tue type of the nutries beling authority of the death of the cottage sine was seated on the front power of the nutries of the cottage sine was twisted a bright coiored bandanta.

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so well.

"Not long thereafter the family was amazed one day to discover the black child scated at the plano, playing with ease and accuracy the various selections which he had heard given by friends and members of the household. After this he was allowed free access to the instrument, and soon began imitating almost every sound he heard. When asked what this or that was he happened to be playing, he would answer. What the birds said, or 'What the rain or the wind told me.

ing, he would answer. What the birds said, or What the rain or the wind told me. "From the roof of the family mansion to within a foot of the ground ran a large tin gutter, down which the water would irickle with a peculiarly musical and soothing sound after a hard rain. The gentle gurgling of the small stream, combined with the occasional tick, tick of rain drops, seemed to have a peculiarly assignation for Tom, and after a rain he was always to be found close to the gutter listening intently to its melody. "One night, after an unusually heavy rainstorm, the inmates of the house were aroused from their slumber by a sound which seemed a confused medley of rain-drops and planoforte. Creeping softly down the stairs they beheld Blind Tom bending eagerly over the plano. He would strike one and then another cord until he had produced the exact harmony which he sought, then, springing from the plano stool, would grope his way through an open window onto the veranda and, placing his ear close to the gutter, which extended along this side of the house, listen intently for a moment. Having caught the tone desired, he would hurry back to the plano and, after a few trials, reproduced the with wonderful accuracy. Thus he continued going back and forth from plano to gutter until at last was composed the entire selection which he afterward called Rain-drop Polka. This, Blind Tom's first composition, was in after years embodied in his Rainstorm, the best known and most meritorious of his productions. "While this little musical producy was often exhibited for the wonderment of riends and neighbors, it was not until about 7 years of age that he first appeared in a public concert. I recall quite vividly one of these early performances, which was unique indeed. "The concert hall, a large, barn-like room, gaudy with gay frescoes and glass chandeliers, more or less dimmed with soot and dust, had at one end a board stage, upon which was placed a chair and plano." "After waiting what seemed an unreasonably long time the manager appea

chandeliers, more or less dimmed with shoot and dust, had at one end a board stage, upon which was placed a chair and plano.

"After waiting what seemed an unreasonably long time the manager appeared upon the stage, half coaking, half leading a little black pickaninny, dressed in white linen. He was of a rather chubby build with a large head, which rested in a peculiar way upon the back of his shoulders. His mouth, as usual, was wide open and his griat blubber lips and white rilstening teeth were about all that you could see as he faced you. Tom was not in a good humor that night and it required a deal of coaxing and promises of candy and cakes to induce him to open the concert. At last, seating himself at the piano, almost half a yard distant, he stretched out his arms full length as though to claw from the keyboard those wondrous melodies which so bewildered and delighted his audiences.

"Now, Tom, my boy, said his master n a kindly tone, 'suppose you give us something from Verdi. His head fell arther back, his fingers began to glide moothly over the keys, and those harnonies of Verdi's which you would have shosen as the purest exponents of passion floated through the room. Selections from other composers equally as senowned followed. After each piece he opplauded himself lustily, then turned apealingly to his master for the approving at upon the head,
"A musician then came upon the stage oput the child's powers to a more severe set. Songs and inricate symphonies etc. Songs and inricate symphonies chile they were being given, and for a sw moments thereafter, then seatting imself at the plano, played each selection without the loss of a note or breat of tone. Seated with his back to the piano e gave several selections with accuracy not expression.
""At the completion of quite a long promanne the little blind performer was

the completion of quite a long price the little blind performer was ling to show signs of wearines upon his master announced the petice at an end. Just then there are upon the stage a musician with old of music, some of his own com, which had never been given it and this he insisted upon the chill The manuscript was fourtee long, with variations upon any

sérambled eagerly to the musician's side his head rolling nervously and his fingers twitching hapatiently. He struck the opening cadence, and then from the first control to last gave the secund triumphers to the composer from the stool, and, taking his place, proceeded to play the trebe with such brilliancy and power as fairly to poser. When he struck the last octave he appraintly weakening, added more, the stool brilliancy and power as fairly to be poser. When he struck the last octave he appraintly weakening, added more of the stool brilliancy and power as fairly to be poser. When he struck the last octave he appraintly weakening, added more of the stool brilliancy and power as fairly to be stool to the stool brilliancy and power as fairly to be poser. When he struck the last octave he appraintly weakening, added more of the stool of th

SLICK MONEY-MAKING SCHEME. Simple, But Worth Two of the Old

Card-sharping Devices.

(Washington Post.)

Speaking of hair, reminds me of a story a traveling man tells:

"We were in the dullest part of the journey across the continent," said he, "and we were in a mood to do anything to kill time. At Cheyenne a prosperous looking man came aboard and made him-

THE BLOOD

Photograph Wins a Case.

leave my own car until we reached the even my own car until we reached theyenne. Then, as I stepped out on the platform, I ran right into the man who had won my money on the way out. He platform, I ran right into the man who had won my money on the way out. He stayed in Cheyenne, but the wig man went on to Chicago, and they had worked their game before I knew they were on the train. What line they've worked it on since I don't know, but as a meney making scheme it is worth two of the old time card sharping dodges. The wig must have cost a pretty penny to begin with, but its cost is a mere trifle compared to the money it brought in."

WAS A GOOD DOCTOR.

His Modesty Prevented His Revealing True Identity.

(New York Press.)

A gentleman passing through City Hail park saw a tramp soaking a crust of bread in the basin of the fountain and gave him a quarter. A reporter, suspecting an old trick, drew nearer the tramp, who leaned against the basin and nibbled at the unappetizing morsel gingerly. The observer edged nearer, the tramp, who continued nibbling.

"Waiting for another 'sucker,' "thought the reporter, but the tramp continued nibbling and actually swallowed some of the stuff. A second tramp arose from a nearby bench and headed for his collegue.

"How're ye feelin' now?" he asked.

"The first speciment shook his head"

The First speciment shook his head"

The First speciment shook his head.

A Philiadelphia lawyer tells whor that plut apicture of Fanny Davender content was a case for him. His client was suing the pennsylvania Raliroad company, of which Wayne MacVeagh was coursel, for \$7.500 damages for the death of her husband. "Just a few days before the case was to have come up she happened into mardidate and announced that she had was to have come up she happened into mardidate and announced that she had was to have come up she happened into mardidate and announced that she had was to have come up she happened into mardidate and announced that she had was to have come up she happened into mardidate and annou

(Chicago Tribune.)

The MAINSPRING

The most wonderful part of our being is the blood. It is the fountain of life, the vital life-sustaining fluid, containing everything needful for the growth and development of the body, and as it circulates through the system carries material for the

making of bone and muscle and nourishment for the nerves and tissues. Every atom of the body is dependent upon the blood for its existence. The bones would decay, muscles shrink and the skin become parched and shriveled but for the nutriment they draw from the blood, and so long as it remains uncontaminated and pure we are fortified against disease and health is assured. But the blood is constantly

The Best Blood Purifier, Tonic and Appetizer.

I had about as severe a case of Eczema as falls to the lot of suffering mortals, but am exceed. I had about as severe a case of Eczema as falls to the lot of suffering mortals, but am exceedingly glad to inform you that I am now as sound as a dollar, not a vestige or sign of the disease remains. Four bottles of S. S. S. drove exposed to poisonous elements from a thousand sources; we come in contact with infectious diseases almost every day; we breathe into our lungs the germs of Malaria; it out of my system and I believe effected a per manent cure. I shall continue to take S. S. S. for some time in decreased doses because I consider it a great blood purifier, tonic and appetizer. Yours truly, N. A. RANDALL.
3125 East 10th street, Indianapolis, Ind.

the water we drink is teeming with millions of microbes, the dust of the streets is filled with bacteria, and when these gain access to the blood are distributed to all parts of the system and the blood becomes a carrier of disease instead of health. Deadly poisons are generated within the body itself, which pollute and vitiate the blood, from which serious and often fatal maladies result.

There is scarcely a disease that cannot be traced to a bad condition of the blood. Rheumatism, Scrofula, Catarrh, Eczema, Tetter, Acne, Contagious Blood Poison and many other equally as distressing ailments are due to a depraved condition of the blood, for which there is no cure except through the purification of the entire blood system. Sores and skin eruptions of the most frightful character, ugly splotches upon the skin, blackheads,

610 S. Market st., Nashville, Tenn. pimples and the red disfiguring bumps so often seen upon the face and neck are also evidences of diseased blood. The use of cosmetics, face bleaches, soaps and lotions hide the blemishes and conceal for a time the roughness and redness of the skin, but do not reach the cause,

which is hidden deep down in the blood and beyond the reach of external treatment. The blood is the main spring of health, the life current that strengthens and refreshes the body, and upon its purity depends your health and happiness. If disease has already entered and you are suffering from some malady for which an impure blood is responsible, a blood purifier and tonic is what you need, and none is so good as S. S., which for nearly fifty years has been recognized as the standard remedy in all blood and skin diseases. It is

guaranteed purely vegetable and can be taken by old and young without fear of any harmful after-effects. S. S. S. is a perfect blood medicine; it destroys and eradicates germs and poisons of every description and restores to the weak and innutritious blood its lost properties, makes it rich and strong again, and under the vitalizing effects of good blood the system rallies,

be found anywhere.

and the patient enjoys again the blessings of perfect health. If you have Rheumatism, Scrofula, a Sore or Ulcer, Catarrh, Eczema, Tetter, Acne, Contagious Blood Poison, or blood trouble of any kind, write us and our physicians will advise you without charge. THE SWIFT SPECIFIC COMPANY, ATLANTA, GA.

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the end of three months was completely well, and my appetite has been good ever since, and I now weigh 250 pounds.

I consider S. S. S. the best blood medicine to

Yours truly, R. SIDEBOTTOM.





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man's Best \$3.50

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marvel of all is their very modest price. Patent kid, heavy or light sole sorts, leather, French heels, to say nothing of the great variety of regular sorts. 

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